

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to commend Anita Norman for her first-place finish in the National Endowment for the Arts's Poetry Out Loud competition.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those of Tennessee's students who garner national acclaim and recognition for their talents and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Anita Norman of Arlington is one such individual who, on April 30, 2014, was awarded the top prize in the ninth-annual Poetry Out Loud National Championship, a contest held by the National Endowment for the Arts which recognizes the finest young poetry readers from across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Poetry Out Loud competition began with more than a half-million participants, of which the top nine, all state champions, were invited to Washington, D.C., to compete for the top prize; and

WHEREAS, after reciting two poems, works by Stanley Kunitz and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Miss Norman was chosen as one of the three finalists. During her final recitation, Anita performed Robert Hayden's "Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday" with confidence and aplomb, characteristics which have defined Miss Norman's participation in the Poetry Out Loud program over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, Anita Norman first participated in the Poetry Out Loud competition in 2012 as a freshman. That year, she won the Tennessee State championship and made her first appearance at the national competition; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore, Miss Norman finished in second place in the state competition, but returned this year to claim victory at the state level before participating in the national competition once more; and

WHEREAS, she has been supported in her endeavors by her parents and her teacher at Arlington High School, Anne Terry, and Miss Norman's success is a testimony to the dedication shown by both her and her supporters; and

WHEREAS, Anita Norman's success on the national stage earned her great acclaim, as well as a \$20,000 personal award and \$500 for her school to purchase poetry books for its library; and

WHEREAS, Miss Norman has, through her commitment to and love of the recitation of poetry, earned the respect and admiration of an entire nation, and her poise and ability have brought honor and acclaim to her school and to this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Anita Norman upon winning first place in the National Endowment for the Arts's ninth-annual Poetry Out Loud National Championship, applauding her dedication to the arts and extending our best wishes for success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.